One of the important functions of my office is to steer federal funds to legitimate, qualified projects here in Alabama's First Congressional District. As almost everyone is aware, billions of dollars are allocated by the federal government every year to thousands of different projects in the United States. However, it is not always easy to identify sources of funding or even know if your project qualifies for federal support.

There are basically two ways federal funding allocated by the Congress of the United States can be made available to qualified entities. These are basic grants as well as direct, or line-item, appropriations. Grants by far provide the most numerous sources of funding and are usually the easiest to obtain.

There are thousands of competitive grant programs available serving everything from water and sewer infrastructure needs to the construction of recreational fields for a community center. My office can help identify potential grant sources.

Generally speaking, a grant requires submission of a detailed proposal to a federal agency, and funds are awarded through a competitive review process within that agency. For example, if Anytown, USA, applied for a grant for a new fire truck, the Department of Homeland Security would review all applications in a specific grant program and award funding to those judged most worthy of the support. A congressional letter of support to accompany the grant application may be useful in some cases. I am happy to offer this service to all deserving projects. Please call my office in Mobile at 251-690-2811 or 1-800-288-8721 for more information regarding the grant process.

For information regarding federal grants, please contact Brandy Jackson in my Mobile district office at 251-690-2811 or 1-800-288-8721. Feel free to e-mail Brandy at <a href="mailto:brandy.jackson@mailto:brandy.jackson